

Day Hike – Hermit Trail

Grand Canyon National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Trail Condition: Unmaintained steep trail requires caution . Rocky and strenuous. Give uphill hikers the right of way.

Directions to Trailhead: Located on the South Rim. During summer months, access is by shuttle bus, no private vehicles allowed. Trail begins 500 feet west of Hermits Rest.

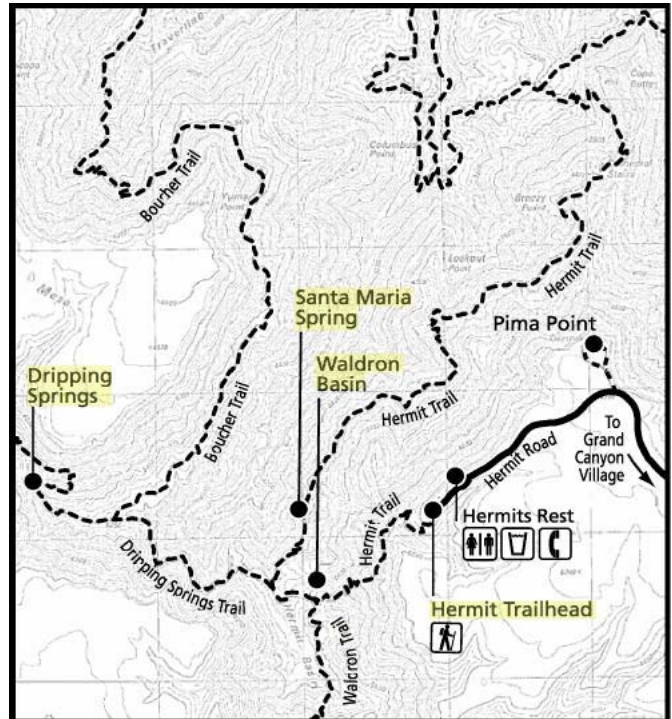
Trailhead Elevation: 6,640 feet.

Services: NO assistance on trail.

Note: NO treated water along trail. Water from springs must be treated before drinking. There are three common methods for treating water: boiling, iodine tablets, and filters.

Hermit Trail day hikes are to Santa Maria Spring or Dripping Springs. Trail conditions are tougher than the Bright Angel and South Kaibab trails. Allow extra hiking time because of trail conditions. Plan on taking twice as long to hike up as it took to hike down. Hiking boots recommended. **For experienced desert hikers.**

Everyone needs to carry water! A common mistake is not carrying water or not carrying enough water. When hiking in a group, each person should be carrying water. **Remember to eat as well as drink while hiking,** you use a lot of energy hiking the canyon.



Destination	Distance (in Miles)		Elevation Feet (at Destination)	Services: W = Water; T = Toilet; E = Emergency Phone			
	One Way	Round Trip		Services			Notes
				W	T	E	
Waldron Trail Junction	1.5	3	5400				Junction Sign (right at Jct.) No water.
Hermit Trail Junction	1.75	3.5	5200				Junction Sign (Hermit / Dripping Springs)
SANTA MARIA SPRING ROUTE (right at Hermit Trail junction sign)							
Santa Maria Spring	2.25	4.5	4880	X			MUST treat water! Rest Shelter.
DRIPPING SPRINGS ROUTE (left at Hermit Trail junction sign)							
Boucher Trail Junction	2.75	5.5	5270				Junction Sign (left at Jct.)
Dripping Springs	3.25	6.5	5680	X			MUST treat water! Use extra caution along narrow sections.

Successful hikers:

1. Plan their hike before they start and go prepared.
2. Hike during the cooler, shadier time of the day.
3. Go slowly, rest often, and stay cool.
4. Eat salty foods and drink water or sports drink.

Depending on how prepared you are, your trip can be a vacation or a challenge, a revelation or an ordeal. Over 250 people are rescued from the canyon each year. The difference between a great adventure in Grand Canyon and a trip to the hospital (or worse) is up to YOU.

DO NOT attempt to hike from the rim to the river and back in one day, especially May to September.

Special Announcement: Major construction involving Hermit Road and the Rim Trail west of Grand Canyon Village will impact access to Hermit trailhead beginning April 1, 2008 and lasting through project completion, tentatively scheduled for fall 2008. All hikers going into the canyon via the Hermit Trail are required to use an alternate trail to complete their hike. Hikers will not be allowed to hike out via the Hermit Trail. During April, May, September, October, and November access to Hermit trailhead will be limited to free early morning shuttle buses (drop-off only) that will depart the Backcountry Information Center two times daily. In June, July, and August no shuttle bus will be provided and Hermit trailhead will have no access by foot or vehicle. For Hermit Road construction information visit www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/hermit.htm

Other inner canyon day hiking options during the construction period are the Bright Angel Trail, South Kaibab Trail, or the Grandview Trail.

Shuttle Bus Information

Hermit's Rest Route - This route operates from March 1 to November 30. Buses provide transportation between the Village Route Transfer and Hermit's Rest with stops at eight canyon overlooks. Hermit Road is open to private vehicles December through February only, but may be closed temporarily due to ice and snow.

For shuttle bus schedules and stops visit www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm